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LATIN INSCRIPTIONS FROM CORINTH<sup>1</sup>

I

TIBERIUS CLAUDIUS  
DINIPPUS

1 (Fig. 1). Slab of bluish marble. Height 1.09 m. Width at top 0.505 m., at bottom 0.53 m. Thickness 0.10—0.17 m. Letters: height 0.048—0.04 m. Back of stone rough. Letters carelessly cut; cross bars to letters 'A' and 'H' lacking. Punctuation by dots between words. Stone considerably worn. Found in one of the early campaigns; exact place and date not recorded.

Transcription:

*Ti(berio) Claudio*  
*P(ublii) f(ilio)*  
*Fab(ia tribu)*  
*Dinippo*  
*II vir(o) II vir(o)*  
*quinq(uennali)*  
*augur(i)*  
*sacerdoti Victoriae*

TICLAVDIO·P·F·FABDINI·PTC  
TIVIR·TIVIR·QVINQ·AVCVR  
SACERDOTI·VICTORIAE  
BRITANN·TRIB·MILLE·CVI  
ANNONAE·CVRATORI  
ACONOTHE·TENERONEON  
CAE·SAREON·ET·ISTHMION  
ET·CAE·SAREON·TRIBVLES  
TRIBVS ATIAE

FIGURE 1.—LATIN INSCRIPTION FROM CORINTH:  
No. 1.

<sup>1</sup> As Fellow of the American School at Athens during the year 1914–15 the author, with the approval of the Director, Mr. B. H. Hill, made a special American Journal of Archaeology, Second Series. Journal of the Archaeological Institute of America, Vol. XXII (1918), No. 2.

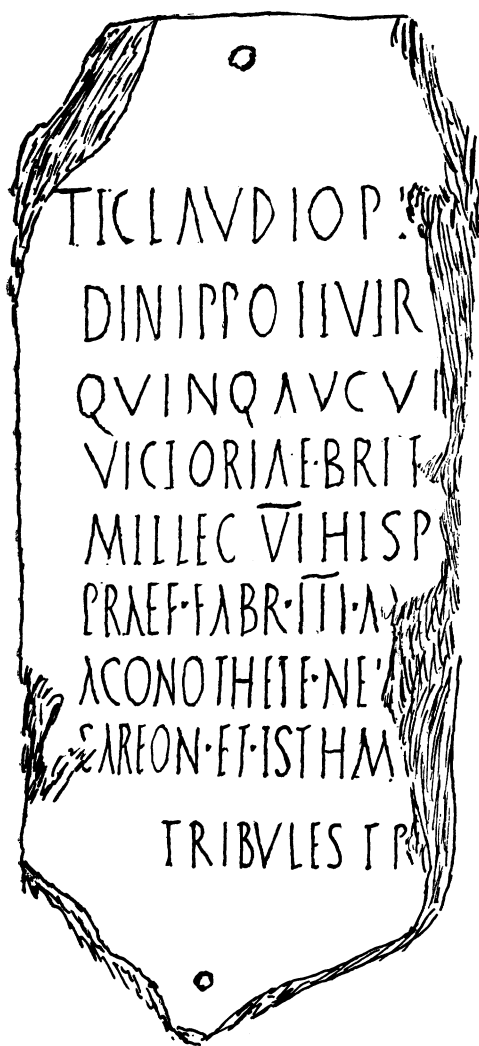


FIGURE 2.—LATIN INSCRIPTION FROM CORINTH:  
No. 2.

*Britann(icae) trib-*  
*(uno) mil(itum)*  
*leg(ionis) VI*  
*annonae curator(i)*  
*agonothet(a)e Nero-*  
*neon*  
*Caesareon et Isth-*  
*mion*  
*et Caesareon tribules*  
*tribus Atiae*

2 (Fig. 2). Marble slab. Height 0.885 m. Width 0.40 m. Left side original; right side broken away. Thickness 0.21 m. Letters: height 0.045—0.035 m. Face of stone worn, has been used as a door-sill. Back of stone very rough. Found, June 1915, in excavations southeast of the fountain of Pirene.

Transcription:

*Ti(berio) Claudio*  
*P(ubl(i)i) f(ilio)*

*Dinippo II vir(o) [II*  
*vir(o)*  
*quinq(uennali) au-*  
*gur(i) [sacerdoti*  
*Victoriae Brit(annicae)*  
*[trib(uno)*

study of the Latin inscriptions discovered during the excavations at Corinth. This paper is the first of a series in which these inscriptions will be published. Owing to the irregularity in communication with Greece at this time, the paper appears by authority of the late Chairman of the Managing Committee, Professor J. R. Wheeler, without previous submission to the Director.  
—J. M. P.

*mil(itum) leg(ionis) VI Hisp(anae) . . .  
 praef(ecto) fabr(um) III a[nn]onae curator  
 agonothet(a)e Ne[roneon] Cae-  
 sareon et Isthm[ion] et Caesareon  
 tribules tr[ibus] Atiae (?)*

3 (Fig. 3). Marble block, broken at top and bottom. Height 0.55 m. Width, sides preserved, 0.50 m. Thickness 0.19 m. Letters: height 0.05—0.037 m. Face of stone worn. Found, June 1915, not far from No. 2.



FIGURE 3.—LATIN INSCRIPTION FROM CORINTH: No. 3.

## Transcription:

*Ti(berio) C]audio P(ublii) f(ilio) . . .*  
*I]I vir(o) II vi[r(o)] . . .*  
*sa] cerdoti Victo[ri]ae . . .*  
*tr] i]b(un) mil(itum) leg(ionis) VI . . .*  
*fabr]um III annona[e] . . .*  
*agon]othet(a)e Ner[one]on . . .*

4 (Fig. 4.) *C.I.L.* III, 539, Corinth. Upper portion gone. Present location unknown. Not seen at Corinth in 1915. Reproduced from Corpus.

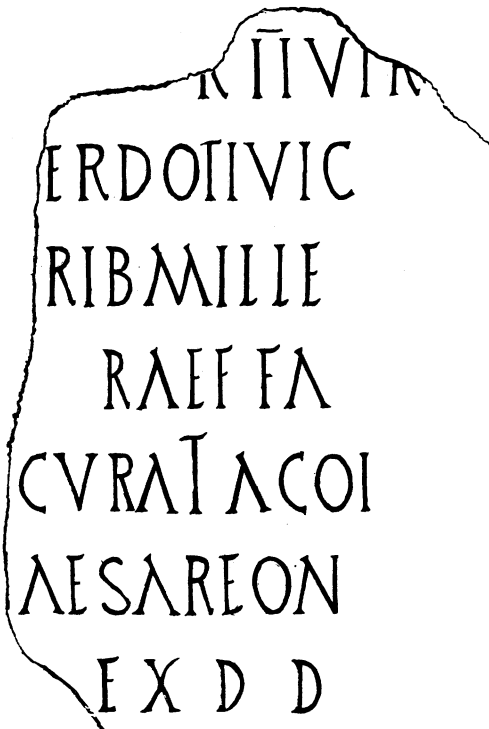


FIGURE 4.—LATIN INSCRIPTION FROM CORINTH:  
*C. I. L.* III, 539.

## Transcription:

*. . . II vi[r(o)] II*  
*vir(o)*  
*sac]erdoti Vic[tor]iae*  
*t]rib(un) mil(itum)*  
*le[g(ionis)]*  
*p]raef(ecto) fa[br(um)]*  
*annona[e] curat(ori)*  
*agon]othet(a)e*  
*C]aesareon*  
*ex d(ecreto)*  
*d(ecurionum)*

There can be no doubt that this inscription refers also to Tiberius Claudius Dinippus. The arrangement of the offices is the same and one would be justified in restoring his name at the top. Furthermore, we are now in a position to correct the interpreta-

tion, made by the editors of the Corpus, of the letters AGOI in line 6. This should be *ago(no)thet(a)e* and not *ago(non)*.

## COMMENTARY

The name Tiberius Claudius Dinippus is not otherwise known to us. Concerning the man who bore this name these inscriptions give us our only information. The cognomen Dinippus is clearly Greek in origin, but the man was a Roman citizen as his nomen and praenomen show, and in addition he belonged to the tribe Fabia. His father's name was Publius Claudius Dinippus (?). Tiberius Claudius Dinippus held two municipal offices, presumably at Corinth, *duumvir* and *duumvir quinquennialis*. The offices next recorded are of a priestly character, viz., augur, perhaps at Corinth, and priest of Victoria Britannica.

The only epigraphical evidence for the existence of a cult of Victoria Britannica has consisted of a stone found at Gigthis.<sup>1</sup> This African inscription, set up in the year 210 A.D., commemorated a victory of Septimius Severus in the wars which he carried on in Britain during the last three years of his reign (208–211 A.D.). Victoria Britannica is also found on the coins of the same emperor, Caracalla, and Geta.<sup>2</sup> The only literary mention of this cult of Victory is preserved in *Panegyricus* 5, 21,<sup>3</sup> which was written about the year 297 A.D. The mention in the inscriptions from Corinth of Victoria Britannica provides the best information concerning their date. They could hardly have been set up before the year 210 A.D.

The next office recorded is a military one. Dinippus was tribune of the soldiers of the sixth legion. Fortunately we are not left to speculation over the name of the legion. Line 5 of inscription 2 has preserved the letters HISP. The legion, then, can be no other than a *legio VI Hispana*. The evidence which we have had thus far concerning this legion is so slight that a recent examination of it by a Belgian scholar, Sauveur,<sup>4</sup> has led him to doubt very seriously the existence of such a legion.

In view of the importance of this matter to Roman military history, it will not be out of place to review once more the scanty information. Legionary tiles have been found in Pan-  
 nonia<sup>5</sup> and in Dacia<sup>6</sup> containing the words LEG VI HIS and

<sup>1</sup> C.I.L. VIII, 11018.

<sup>2</sup> Cohen, IV, 2d ed., p. 76, no. 733, etc.

<sup>3</sup> Baehrens, p. 148.

<sup>4</sup> 'La Legio VI Victrix,' *La Musée Belge*, 1908, pp. 117–201.

<sup>5</sup> C.I.L. III, 11852.

<sup>6</sup> C.I.L. III, 8069.

LE VI H. Mommsen interpreted these as references to the *legio VI Victrix*, which was quartered in Spain during the first century after Christ, and which sent a detachment into Pannonia. Cagnat agrees substantially with this view. Nissen<sup>1</sup> and Ritterling<sup>2</sup> refer the titles to the *legio VI Victrix*, but they believe that they were made later when this legion was stationed in Germania Inferior. The difficulty with this explanation is that if the legion were in Germany one would scarcely expect to find it called *Hispana*. Sauveur points out the objections to these interpretations and concludes that the tiles were not made by soldiers of the *legio VI Victrix* at all. He believes that the tile containing only an H after the numeral VI may have been left in Pannonia by the soldiers of the *legio VI Herculia*, one of the legions formed by Diocletian; that the other tile bearing the letters HIS after the numeral VI was left behind by members of the *legio VII Gemina*, a legion enrolled and for a long time stationed in Spain; and that we should read VII instead of VI, for mistakes, he says, are not infrequent in giving the numbers of legions. An inscription<sup>3</sup> found at Brescia, ancient Brixia, contains the letters LEG VI H. After the H the base of a letter is seen, and it seems to be the letter I. Sauveur admits that if the reading is sure then the existence of a *legio VI Hispana* is proved. But in the next sentence he reaffirms his conviction that the *legio VI Victrix* from Spain is referred to. The comment of Mommsen on the stone from Brescia shows that he thought it belonged to the same period to which he assigned the tiles, that is the *optima aetas*, as he described it judging from the style of the letters.

An inscription at Aquileia<sup>4</sup> mentions a *legio IHHI Hispana*. Mommsen believed this was an error for the numeral VIII, in other words a reference to the *legio IX Hispana*. Sauveur, from his failure to make any mention of the stone at Aquileia, probably agrees with the correction which Mommsen proposes. The reading on the stone at Corinth is in no way uncertain. We may regard the existence of a *legio VI Hispana* during the reign of Septimius Severus as proved.

<sup>1</sup> *Bonn. Jb.* 111-112, 1904, p. 84.

<sup>2</sup> *De Legione Romana X Gemina*, p. 76, n. 2.

<sup>3</sup> *C.I.L. V*, 4381 = Pais, *Suppl.*, No. 677.

<sup>4</sup> Pais, *Suppl.*, No. 165.

The new inscription from Corinth is, in addition, a confirmation of the correctness of the number of the legion as written on the stone from Aquileia. This agreement furnishes another reason for dating the Corinthian stone not earlier than the reign of Septimius Severus. It may very well be, also, that other references to the *legio VI Hispana* belong to this period. If so, this removes all the difficulty which scholars have felt in accounting for the presence of soldiers of this legion in Dacia and Pannonia.

Inscriptions 2, 3, and 4 mention a second military office, that of *praefectus fabrum*, which Dinippus held for three periods.

Subsequently Dinippus was made administrator of the supply of grain. It is not improbable that this office also was held in Corinth. Dinippus would have been called *praefectus annonae* had he been concerned with Rome's supply as late as the third century after Christ.

The last office is one that would be remembered by the Corinthians. Claudius provided the Isthmian games, and others which pass under the names Caesarian and Neronian-Caesarian, and which were doubtless celebrated in the stadium at the Isthmus. Expansion of the Greek games during the Roman Empire, and the continuation of the contests at the Isthmus are too well known to call for further comment here. Owing to the small number of inscriptions from Corinth and the Isthmus, few details about the games in the early centuries of our era have been brought to light. A Greek inscription<sup>1</sup> found in Corinth a few years ago contains some information on this point. It was set up in honor of Cn. Cornelius Pulcher and among the offices which he held was that of *ἀγωνοθέτης Καισαρείων Ἴσθμίων*. The inscription was cut during the reign of Hadrian. Another Greek inscription in honor of the same Cn. Cornelius Pulcher was erected at Troezen.<sup>2</sup> On this stone Cornelius is called *ἀγωνοθέτης Καισαρῶν Νερωνῶν Τραιανῶν Σεβαστῶν Γερμανικῶν Δακῶν καὶ Ἴσθμίων καὶ Καισαρῶν* the names following the same arrangement as in our No. 1 and also *ἀγωνοθέτης Σεβαστείων καὶ Ἀσκληπειῶν*. The first series of games was, of course, held at the Isthmus, the second probably at Epidaurus.

Inscription 1 was set up by members of a tribe called Atia and this name probably appeared on Inscription 2. Inasmuch as no

<sup>1</sup> *I.G.* IV, 1600.

<sup>2</sup> *I.G.* IV, 795.



tribe of this name is known elsewhere we naturally look to other inscriptions from Corinth for further light on this matter. It may not be out of place, considering the importance of this new information on the history of Corinth, to anticipate certain inscriptions soon to be published. Several stones have been recovered during the excavations which were erected in the first instance by the members of certain tribes. There is a dedication to Marcus Agrippa made between the years 18 and 12 B.C. by the tribe Vinicia. The members of a tribe Agrippa, which evidently received its name, possibly in the principate of Augustus, from the man just mentioned, honored the priestess Callistratea. A tribe Aurelia and another, the name of which seems to be Maneia, are known. These are clearly local tribes. The tribe Atia is probably also one of the divisions of Corinth under Roman sway. It becomes evident that when the city was reestablished by Julius Caesar and Augustus the citizens of the *Colonia Laus Julia Corinthus* were organized on a tribal basis. The formation of tribes in the new *colonia* may have been due partly to the common practice in Greek cities. More probably their existence at Corinth was the result of the founder's wish. We know that tribes were established in a colony in Spain organized by Julius Caesar.<sup>1</sup> A colony founded by Augustus in Sicily, the *Colonia Augusta Lilybaeum*, had twelve tribes according to an inscription<sup>2</sup> found there, and another<sup>3</sup> was erected by the members of the tribe Jupiter Augustus.

This leads us to consider the significance of the names given to the new tribes at Corinth. Atia is the name of Augustus' mother, the niece of Julius Caesar. Aurelia is the name of Julius Caesar's mother, and as Augustus was the son of Caesar by adoption, she may be called his grandmother. Agrippa was the son-in-law of Augustus. The name Vinicia is more difficult to account for, but it is probable that this tribe received its name from the intimate friend of Augustus, M. Vinicius.<sup>4</sup> The origin of the name Maneia has not been explained. It is not without interest to compare the names of the Corinthian tribes with the

<sup>1</sup> See 'Lex Coloniae Iuliae Genetivae,' *Eph. Ep.* II, pp. 105-151, especially p. 125.

<sup>2</sup> *C.I.L.* X, 7233.

<sup>3</sup> *C.I.L.* X, 7237.

<sup>4</sup> *Suet. Aug.* 71.

names of the *curiae* in African towns.<sup>1</sup> Names which have been preserved are Aelia, Antonia, Antoniniana, Augusta, Aurelia, Caelestia, Commoda, Iovia, Iulia felix, Papiria, Sabina, Saturnia, Severiana, and Traiana. The tribes at Corinth possess names very closely connected with the family and friends of the first Princeps. Concerning the number of tribes at Corinth we have no information.

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<sup>1</sup> *C.I.L.* VIII, Index, p. 1101.